

AMENDED IN SENATE JUNE 28, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 2, 2007

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 9, 2007

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2007–08 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1142

Introduced by Assembly Member Salas

February 23, 2007

An act relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1142, as amended, Salas. Skilled nursing facilities: hospice care.

Existing law provides for the licensure and regulation of health facilities by the State Department of Public Health.

Existing law defines a “skilled nursing facility” as a health facility that provides skilled nursing care and supportive care to patients whose primary need is that of availability of care on an extended basis. Existing law imposes specified requirements upon skilled nursing facilities with regard to, among other things, its patients, staffing ratios, and the medical services provided by those facilities.

The bill would require the department, no later than January 1, ~~2010~~ 2009, to identify innovative facility resident care models for end-of-life and palliative care, as prescribed, and to provide specified information about those care models to each licensed freestanding skilled facility in the state. The bill would also require the department to post related information on those resident care models on the department’s Web site.

The bill, in addition, would require the department to conduct a comprehensive review of the state’s licensing and reimbursement

policies to determine how best to expand and facilitate the availability of quality options for residential hospice in the state, to work with stakeholders to identify regulatory or statutory barriers inhibiting skilled nursing facilities from implementing model programs for resident hospice services, and to report to the Legislature, on or before January 1, 2009, and make recommendations on the best ways to remove identified barriers.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. (a) The State Department of Public Health shall,
2 no later than January 1, ~~2010~~ 2009, identify facility resident care
3 models related to end-of-life and palliative care. The identification
4 of those care models shall include an application process that
5 encourages facilities to provide examples of innovative care models
6 and facility best practices for end-of-life and palliative care. The
7 department shall review those model care examples and shall select
8 those models that are appropriate for statewide distribution. The
9 department shall also provide each licensed freestanding skilled
10 nursing facility in the state with a description of selected innovative
11 care models, and shall post related information on the department's
12 Web site.
13 (b) *The department shall conduct a comprehensive review of*
14 *the state's licensing and reimbursement policies to determine how*
15 *best to expand and facilitate the availability of quality options for*
16 *residential hospice in the state. While conducting the review, the*
17 *department shall work with stakeholders to identify any regulatory*
18 *or statutory barriers that might inhibit skilled nursing facilities*
19 *from fully implementing model programs for resident hospice*
20 *services.*
21 (c) *On or before January 1, 2009, the department shall report*
22 *to the Legislature findings from the review, as described in*
23 *subdivision (b), and make recommendations on the best ways to*
24 *remove any barriers identified as inhibitors for skilled nursing*
25 *facilities to fully implement model programs for resident hospice*
26 *services.*

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